

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

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Conyers: “Bush Medical Malpractice Proposal Would Pad the Pockets of Insurance Industry at the Expense of Patients”

Today, Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee and Dean of the Congressional Black Caucus, issued the following statement in response to President Bush’s medical malpractice proposal:

“I’m amazed that at a time when more than 40 million Americans are uninsured, and millions of seniors cannot afford prescription drugs, the president believes that we can redeem our health care system by cutting off victims rights. Rather than helping doctors and victims, the legislation President Bush is advocating would pad the pockets of insurance companies, HMOs, and the manufacturers and distributors of defective medical products and pharmaceuticals. And it would do so at the expense of innocent victims, particularly women, children, the elderly and the poor.

Bush’s legislative solution is focused on limiting victims rights available under our state tort system, and will do little other than increase the incidence of medical malpractice -- already the third leading cause of preventable death in our nation. Under this proposal, President Bush is saying to the American people that we don’t care if you lose your ability to bear children, we don’t care if you are forced to bear excruciating pain for the remainder of your life, and we don’t care if you are permanently disfigured or crippled.

Nearly 100,000 people die in this country each and every year from medical malpractice. The last thing we need to do is exacerbate this problem, while ignoring the true causes of the medical malpractice crisis in America. I hope Congress has the good sense to continue to reject this anti-patient, anti-victim legislation.”

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